

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

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O P 231445Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3235

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EAID, PO, IT

SUBJECT: AID TO PORTUGAL

REF: A. STATE 223616

B. EV BRUSSELS 8386

C. LISBON 5583

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS GUAZZARONI SEPTEMBER 22, ECMIN ASKED ABOUT PLANS OF
GOI AND EC ON AID TO PORTUGAL.

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2. GUAZZARONI FIRST DESCRIBED ITALIAN AND EC CONSIDERATION

OF AID TO PORTUGAL IN PERIOD FROM JULY TO FORMATION OF AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. HE THEN NOTED THAT EC PERMREPS HAD SET UP COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE QUESTION OF AID AND TO REPORT ITS CONCLUSIONS AT OCTOBER 6-7 EC COUNCIL MEETING. AS REPORTED REF B, GUAZZARONI SAID EC WAS NOT CONSIDERING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE BUT RATHER WAS FOCUSING ON QTE INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE UNQTE. HE INDICATED THAT AID WOULD BE GIVEN IN FORM OF LOANS BY EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB); HOWEVER, EC HAS NOT YET REACHED POINT OF DECIDING ON AMOUNT OR TERMS. IN RESPONSE TO ECMIN'S QUESTION, GUAZZARONI CONFIRMED THAT GOI DID NOT INTEND TO GIVE AID ON BILATERAL BASIS; GOI CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE GIVEN INDIRECTLY THROUGH EC, AS IN CASE OF EIB LOAN. HE NOTED THAT AS OF MOMENT ONLY FRG APPARENTLY PLANNING DIRECT BILATERAL AID.

3. IN ADDITION TO NECESSITY FOR EC TO SORT OUT ITS INTENTIONS ON AID TO PORTUGAL, GUAZZARONI STATED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR GOP TO ADVISE EC OFFICIALLY AS TO ITS AID REQUEST. NOW THAT NEW GOVERNMENT IS IN PLACE, GUAZZARONI EXPECTED GOP AID REQUEST WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

4. TURNING TO MORE IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF ANGOLAN REFUGEE AID, ECMIN REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR GAJA (REF A) AND ASKED FOR GOI'S THINKING. GUAZZARONI INDICATED THAT GOI HAD NOT REALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS QUESTION. APPARENTLY ITS ACTIONS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN LIMITED TO SOUNDING OUT OTHER EC MEMBERS. GUAZZARONI GAVE IMPRESSION THAT ITALY WOULD PROBABLY NOT MAKE A BILATERAL CONTRIBUTION (IN THAT CONNECTION HE MENTIONED ITALY'S LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND DIFFICULTIES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ABSORBING ANY REFUGEES). HOWEVER, HE SHOWED FULL AWARENESS OF URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF PROBLEM, ADDING TO ECMIN'S COMMENT ON CONTRIBUTION OF REFUGEES TO POLITICAL MODERATION IN PORTUGAL, GUAZZONINI STRESSED THAT REFUGEES AS GROUP WOULD HELP FILL GAP LEFT BY FLIGHT OF TECHNICAL/MIDDLE CLASS LEVEL PORTUGUESE. VOLPE

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